

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-13. (Canceled)

14. (New) A connecting device for a pipe, comprising:

a coupling body having an inner wall, a stop, a substantially cylindrical recess having an inlet, and a sloped surface extending radially inwardly from said inner wall in a direction toward said inlet; and

a clamping collar having at an inner end thereof at least one radially displaceable arresting tongue, with said clamping collar being receivable within said substantially cylindrical recess and for, when received within said substantially cylindrical recess at an axially inner starting position, slidably receiving a pipe until one end of the pipe abuts said stop,

such that when the pipe is slid away from said stop in a direction toward said inlet, along with said clamping collar being slid in the direction toward said inlet from the axially inner starting position to an axially outer arresting position, an outer side of said at least one radially displaceable arresting tongue cooperates with said sloped surface so as to be displaced radially into engagement with an outer wall surface of the pipe,

wherein said clamping collar is divided into an axially inner function section and an axially outer actuation section, with a seal positioned between facing front sides of said axially inner function section and said axially outer actuation section, said seal for sealing against said inner wall and against the outer wall surface of the pipe, and with said axially inner function section having said at least one radially displaceable arresting tongue.

15. (New) The connecting device according to claim 14, wherein

said at least one radially displaceable arresting tongue is to spread radially outwardly upon being slid from the axially outer arresting position to the axially inner starting position.

16. (New) The connecting device according to claim 15, wherein said seal comprises an O-ring seal.

17. (New) The connecting device according to claim 16, wherein said axially outer actuation section has at least one radially displaceable latching tongue at an outer end thereof, said at least one radially displaceable latching tongue having a radially outwardly directed projection that is to engage within a circumferential groove in said inner wall of said coupling body.

18. (New) The connecting device according to claim 17, wherein said circumferential groove is of such a width that it permits axial displacement of said radially outwardly directed projection when received therein to such an extent that said axially inner function section can be displaced back and forth between the axially inner starting position and the axially outer arresting position.

19. (New) The connecting device according to claim 17, wherein said at least one radially displaceable latching tongue comprises at least two radially displaceable latching tongues uniformly distributed over a circumference of said axially outer actuation section.

20. (New) The connecting device according to claim 16, further comprising:
another sloped surface extending radially inwardly from said inner wall in a direction toward said inlet, said another sloped surface being positioned such that said at least one radially displaceable arresting tongue is to spread radially outwardly upon being slid from the axially outer arresting position to the axially inner starting position by virtue of said another sloped surface cooperating with a front-side end of said at least one arresting tongue as a ramp-up slope so as to radially outwardly spread said at least one radially displaceable arresting tongue.

21. **(New)** The connecting device according to claim 20, wherein said front-side end of said at least one radially displaceable arresting tongue has an identically directed tongue slope that cooperates with said another sloped surface.
22. **(New)** The connecting device according to claim 16, wherein said clamping collar has a circumferential flange at an outer end thereof.
23. **(New)** The connecting device according to claim 22, wherein said axially outer actuation section includes said circumferential flange.
24. **(New)** The connecting device according to claim 16, wherein said O-ring seal is adjacent said inlet.
25. **(New)** The connecting device according to claim 16, wherein said at least one radially displaceable arresting tongue has a sharp edge on a side facing the outer wall surface of the pipe when the pipe is received within said clamping collar.
26. **(New)** The connecting device according to claim 16, wherein said sloped surface is defined by an annular bead circumferentially extending along said inner wall of said coupling body.
27. **(New)** The connecting device according to claim 16, wherein said at least one radially displaceable arresting tongue comprises at least two radially displaceable arresting tongues uniformly distributed over a circumference of said clamping collar.
28. **(New)** The connecting device according to claim 16, wherein said axially inner function section is of metal and said axially outer actuation section is of

an elastically compliant material.

29. **(New)** The connecting device according to claim 15, further comprising:
another sloped surface extending radially inwardly from said inner wall in a direction toward said inlet, said another sloped surface being positioned such that said at least one radially displaceable arresting tongue is to spread radially outwardly upon being slid from the axially outer arresting position to the axially inner starting position by virtue of said another sloped surface cooperating with a front-side end of said at least one arresting tongue as a ramp-up slope so as to radially outwardly spread said at least one radially displaceable arresting tongue.

30. **(New)** The connecting device according to claim 14, wherein
said at least one radially displaceable arresting tongue has a sharp edge on a side facing the outer wall surface of the pipe when the pipe is received within said clamping collar.

31. **(New)** The connecting device according to claim 14, wherein
said clamping collar has a circumferential flange at an outer end thereof.

32. **(New)** The connecting device according to claim 14, wherein
said axially outer actuation section has at least one radially displaceable latching tongue at an outer end thereof, said at least one radially displaceable latching tongue having a radially outwardly directed projection that is to engage within a circumferential groove in said inner wall of said coupling body.

33. **(New)** The connecting device according to claim 14, wherein
said axially inner function section is of metal and said axially outer actuation section is of an elastically compliant material.